



OFFICE OF
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT, MUSCOGEE COUNTY

Danielle F. Forté
Clerk

P.O. Box 2145
Columbus, Georgia 31902-2145
www.muscogeecourts.com

GOVERNMENT CENTER
TELEPHONE
(706) 653-4370

*****STATEMENT OF SUPERIOR COURT CLERK DANIELLE FORTÈ***

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

**SUPERIOR COURT CLERK FORTÈ LAUDS INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN
DEMPS ARREST AND CONVICTION**

JUNE 2, 2022

COLUMBUS, Ga. – Willie Demps, a former employee with the Superior Court Clerk’s office, was sentenced today to prison for bank fraud and theft.

When Superior Court Clerk Danielle Fortè took office in late 2018, she vowed to aggressively serve and protect the people of Muscogee County. Today she keeps that promise with the sentencing of Demps, marking the end of the final chapter in a long and difficult process.

Fortè’s first major decision when elected in November 2018 was to launch an internal financial audit. The investigation “led us directly to Willie Demps,” Fortè said. Within days of the audit request, the city council approved the probe. “Not only did Demps steal money, but he also induced others to join his criminal conspiracy.”

Fortè summed up the scheme this way: “He systematically siphoned off money, diverting it to his own personal use and then covered up the theft by using fraudulent bank transfers and checks to others, where he would then receive a kick back. Demps stole cash from law enforcements' condemnation accounts and used the stolen funds for his own personal gains.”

The audit took many months and was a great expense to the clerk’s office. But it was worth it, Fortè said. “We had to get our financial house in order.”

Middle District of Georgia Judge Clay Land announced Demps’ sentence Thursday after accepting Demps’ plea agreement.